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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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SUBJECT: "How Doth the Busy Carpet Beetle?"...Information from entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Are carpet beetle larvae grazing on your favorite woolens?

You may know the carpet beetle as the buffalo moth. That's what the insect is sometimes called. People who have had experience with the carpet beetle (or buffalo moth) say it's harder to control than the ordinary clothes moth.

The reason for this--say entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture--is the grub's habit of entering wall spaces, where it may remain quietly for some time out of reach of ordinary house-cleaning operations. When it gets hungry again, the insect returns to its feeding.

The carpet beetle larva has a healthy appetite. It likes rugs and woolen and animal fibers of all kinds. It's been known to add insult to injury by feeding not only on the woolen part of the carpet but also on the bristles and felt of the carpet sweeper brush. And the insect's taste ranges from animal fibers to mealy and flour material as well...so it will feed upon rayon clothes that have a starchy sizing in them.

If your household is plagued with a heavy infestation of carpet beetle larvae, the best remedy is fumigation. And since fumigation requires the use of poisonous gas, it's wise to get a professional fumigator to do the work.

On the other hand...if the infestation of carpet beetles is light...chances are you can get rid of the pests. You can find directions for the control of carpet beetles in a leaflet by that name. Just drop a card with your name and address on it to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for the leaflet on "Carpet Beetles". It's free.

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